Revival of pipeline project talk

2458. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has visited Pakistan to revive pipeline talks;

(b) if so, what was the outcome of the talks held with Pakistan Government;

(c) whether now all the issues regarding pipeline with the concerned countries that is India, Pakistan and Iran have been fully settled; and

(d) if so, by what time this project is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) A Ministerial-level bilateral meeting between India and Pakistan was held on April 25, 2008 in Islamabad. Issues concerning Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Gas Pipeline Project, namely, project structure, transportation tariff and transit fee for passage of gas through Pakistan, were discussed in the meeting.

(c) Discussions are under way amongst the participating countries for resolution of various important issues concerning the project.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Increased level of crude oil import

†2459. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that country's import of crude has been on the rise during the period starting from October to December, 2008;

(b) if so, the extent of this rise in import against the corresponding period in last year;

(c) the share of public sector and private sector in this import rise; and

(d) the reasons for rising import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The country imported a total of 11365 Thousand Metric Tonnes (TMT) of Crude Oil in October 2008, which was higher by 2.9% over the quantity of Crude Oil imported in April 2008. The figures for the months of November and December 2008 are not yet available.

(b) and (c) Comparative figures of imports of Crude Oil in quantitative terms for the period April-October of the years 2007 and 2008, as also the share of public sector and private sector, are as under.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.